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AMONG THE PEACE ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

THE Society begins the new year with the encouragement of the cooperation of Dr. George W. Kirchwey, who took up the duties of President January 1. At a meeting, January 5, of the Continuation Committee, appointed by the informal conference of peace workers held in New York in October for the purpose of furthering investigation as to a minimum peace program on which all the peace organizations in this country might combine, it was voted that the American Peace Society should issue the call for a second and formal Conference of Peace Societies and Peace Workers, to be held in New York February 22, coinciding with the annual meeting of the World's Court League. At this conference a codification and condensation of the results of the questionnaire submitted by the Continuation Committee to several hundred peace leaders in America, and at present in charge of an especially appointed sub-committee, will be presented for consideration. It is hoped by those who are proposing this conference that it will result in the adoption of a universal program of American peace work, in which each large organization shall have definitely appointed tasks, thus avoiding conflicts and duplication of effort that are unavoidable under the present disunity.

With sincere regret announcement is made of the resignation of Dr. Samuel T. Dutton as Director of the New York-New Jersey Department.

New England Department.

Besides conferences with the officers of the Maine, New Hampshire, New Bedford, and Derry divisions and sections, Dr. Tryon has been engaged in an extended lecture tour in Maine, presenting stereopticon lectures before many school and seminary audiences. The Director has written articles on Dr. Trueblood and his work for *The Arbitrator* and *Christian Work and Evangelist*.

Central West Department.

The Director has delivered lectures recently at the North Shore Congregational Church, the Waters School, and First Presbyterian Church, Chicago; also at Oak Park, Ill. A very interesting and profitable conference was held with Dr. N. Krishna, of India, President fondateur du Comité Franco-Indien. Dr. Krishna is speaking in this country on behalf of his countrymen and a broader conception in America of internationalism.

Pacific Coast Department.

In December, Director Root began a lecture tour in the South, visiting Ontario, Pomona, Pasadena, Los Angeles, Whittier, Long Beach, and other towns in the neighborhood of Los Angeles. On December 21 the Director debated the question of military training in California high schools at Fresno, California, and spoke on the same subject at the neighboring town of Hanford, on the 22d. He has been appointed member of a committee that is to prepare a bill providing for compulsory physical training in the schools as a substitute for military training, which is to be presented before the legislature at the earliest possible moment. Substantial sup-

port is being received from a large group of the labor unions, from mothers' clubs, educators, and many private citizens. Strong committees of the last-named have been formed in Pasadena and elsewhere. The greatest need in this work is funds, which, in spite of a substantial interest shown in many quarters, are difficult to secure.

New Hampshire Division.

Arrangements have been made for the annual meeting of the division, to be held February 16, at Exeter, in conjunction with the William Ladd Peace Society. Addresses will be made by Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews and others. The program is to be devoted entirely to Pan-American relations, wherein special interest in this locality is centered at present. It is hoped to encourage the teaching of Spanish in the schools of the State, of which the Manchester high school is at present the only one that offers a course in this language. Secretary Miss Mary N. Chase reports continued interest in the project of correspondence between schools in New Hampshire and in Argentina, initiated by the Proctor Academy, of Andover.

Maine Division.

At a meeting recently held the Maine Peace Society voted to accept the terms of the Revised Constitution of 1916 of the American Peace Society, and to continue thenceforth as the Maine Division of the Society. At this time a circular was prepared and distributed widely, which has resulted in an encouraging reawakening of interest in the division's work and a considerable augmentation of membership.

Chicago Section.

At the December meeting of the executive committee the committee on revision of the constitution reported and recommended certain changes in the constitution which would make it conform to that of the American Peace Society. The executive committee voted to recommend this report to the next annual meeting of the society for adoption. It was voted also to change the fiscal year of the section so that it would end with April 30, instead of December 31, as at present, in order that it might conform to the fiscal year of the American Peace Society, and also because that more accurately represents the end of the year's work. It was voted to call the annual meeting for this year in May at some date between the 1st and 15th, at the discretion of the president and secretary. Charles L. Hutchinson, treasurer of the Chicago Peace Society, acted as toastmaster at a banquet of the League to Enforce Peace held in Chicago in January.

Atlanta Section.

Protesting against the disapproval uttered by certain ministers of the gospel of efforts to end the war, the section went on record in a statement in part as follows:

"Resolutions, recently widely proclaimed and calling upon Christian people not to lend their support to an early peace, but favoring a continuation of strife until one side is utterly annihilated—surpass our understanding. For today, when Americans are unwilling to admit that either side has gained advantage after two and one-half years' warfare, and when experts are afraid to predict victory for either side, it would seem that the above remonstrants are taking desperate chances with fortune to urge a continuation of

the frightful carnage for the sole purpose that their favorites may crush out of existence their enemies.

"With all others, we, too, desire permanent peace; but we believe it will eventually come not by the arbitrament of the sword, but by an eager yearning for peace, the recognition of the rights of humanity, good will among all the people and wise statesmanship. At such a time as this, therefore, it behooves the friends of peace everywhere to stand together. And to our beloved nation, at peace with all the world, is given the rare privilege of showing to all peoples that human slaughter is not the way to national grandeur and world-wide fame."

ARBITRATION AND PEACE SOCIETY OF BUFFALO.

This Society has adopted, as the most practical plan for its own locality, work for the most part through and in cooperation with affiliated societies and other organizations of a sympathetic nature, thus hoping to enlist the interest of many persons not in direct touch with the Society or intimately connected with peace work. This has resulted in an active campaign during the past months, in which large numbers of meetings and discussions of military drill in the schools were covered, as well as big State conventions in Rochester and Buffalo. Two members of the executive committee, Mrs. Dexter P. Rumsey and Mrs. Frank F. Williams, have performed excellent service on the Peace Committee of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, which lately held its annual convention in Rochester. A peace conference room was fitted up and a considerable amount of literature distributed with the help of assistants from Rochester and other cities. Talks were also given, aimed at arousing interest in the American Peace Society, the World Alliance of Churches, and in the subject of Pan-Americanism. Thirty-five hundred copies of the Hensley resolution were distributed, with nearly twelve thousand other pieces of peace literature. The Hon. John Barrett, Director of the Pan-American Union, was secured as a speaker, and was well received. The same methods, followed at the convention of the New York State Teachers' Association in Buffalo somewhat later, resulted in the distribution of over twenty-five hundred leaflets and pamphlets, furnished by the American Peace Society and others.

NEW BEDFORD PEACE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting held in December was addressed by Dr. James L. Tryon, Director of the New England Department. The secretary, Miss Helen H. Seabury, submitted an encouraging report of the year's work. Officers elected were: President, Allen P. Keith; vice-president, Charles Mitchell; secretary, Helen H. Seabury; treasurer, Mary B. Seabury.

MASSACHUSETTS PEACE SOCIETY.

In a circular issued to local committees the society declares that "at the close of the war there will undoubtedly be put forth in every important country a tremendous effort to reorganize international relations on such a basis that another such world catastrophe may be made impossible. To be effective this action must be based upon an intelligent public opinion. It is highly important, therefore, that every effort be made at this time to educate public opinion, in this country and in other countries, regarding the possibilities of abolishing the international war system." Efforts of the society in this regard are threefold—political action, educa-

tional propaganda, and organization. Under the first head is the present agitation to secure Federal legislation for the protection of the treaty rights of aliens. An eight-page pamphlet covering this proposed bill may be obtained upon application to the headquarters, Pemberton Building, Boston. The educational propaganda is carried on through three very popular series of stereopticon lectures, which are loaned free of cost, through speakers furnished for meetings of all sorts, and by a poster exhibit that is gradually being developed. The organization work consists of the forming of local committees throughout the State, which act as feelers and feeders for the central organization, and through which much of the active propaganda work is conducted.

The society's stereopticon lecture was used during December and January at thirty-four meetings at various points in the State: Agawam, Athol, Bellingham, Boston, Brockton, Chicopee, Cohasset, Johnson, Vt.; Kingston, Lexington, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, Milford, North Easton, Peabody, Quincy, Salem, Somerville, Springfield, Sudbury, Upton, Waltham, Watertown, Weymouth, Winthrop, Worcester, Woronoco. Secretary Haskins recently addressed men's meetings in Boston, Waltham, and Somerville; also the Woman's Club of the St. Johns Church, East Boston, the People's Union Church, Hough's Neck, a special public meeting at Lexington under the auspices of the local committee of the society, and a union meeting of the Whitman churches.

DULUTH PEACE SOCIETY.

The society has issued an attractive card-calendar for 1917, containing an appropriate peace sentiment and of convenient form for ready reference. While membership campaigns within its territory have not yielded much augmentation recently, quiet propaganda work continues to keep up a steady interest in domestic and foreign peace work and to maintain the society as a potential factor of importance in its particular field.

WOMAN'S PEACE PARTY.

Massachusetts Branch.

Much effort has been expended here in keeping before the public the two portions of the Navy Bill known as the Hensley resolution and the Shaffroth amendment providing for a commission to be appointed by the President for United States representation at a world peace tribunal and for the cancellation of such naval expenditures provided by the bill as may be rendered unnecessary by the decisions of any such tribunal. A circular embodying these paragraphs and briefly interpreting them with suggestions of means of bringing them before a wider audience is issued by this branch, and may be obtained free by writing to the headquarters, 421 Boylston street, Boston.

NEDERLANDSCHE ANTI-OORLOG RAAD (HOLLAND).

The Netherlands' Anti-War Council, at a recent meeting attended by many prominent persons, adopted a resolution which was cabled to the belligerent governments and sent to all foreign ministers at The Hague, imploring the warring powers not to allow the possibility of peace negotiations to pass. The resolution remarks with satisfaction that the offer of the Central Powers has not been decidedly refused by the Entente, and urges the

belief that an understanding is possible. According to the secretary, Dr. de Jong van Beeken Donk, thirty big Netherlands federations sent cablegrams of congratulations to President Wilson on his peace move.

LIGUE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME (FRANCE).

The powerful organization of the League of the Rights of Man, at a congress held under the direction of M. Maurice Moutet, deputy for the Rhône, recently drew up resolutions declaring a durable peace possible only when settlement of all international disputes be by law and not by force. Additional stipulations are—the right of all nations to independence, the necessity of compulsory arbitration, treaties at the close of the war containing no hint of revenge, no action against the will of the people towards dismembering of States, all annexations by force in the past annulled, penalties to be imposed on powers guilty of waging wars in contravention of international law, and sufficient guarantees against future infringements of the rights of nations. It is also recommended to the allied governments to form among themselves a federation “which may serve as a model for a future society of nations.” A Paris dispatch declares that these resolutions have been much criticised, particularly as to the efficacy of compulsory arbitration.

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION, NATIONAL W. C. T. U.

With the aid of its thirty-three State superintendents, under the leadership of Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey, of Winthrop Center, Maine, a report of the year's work for 1916 has been submitted which embodies many encouraging features. The report states that the department is “opposed to every form of carnal warfare. Its aim is to leave no wrong unrighted, but to right wrongs in the right way—by arbitration and law. Its hopes are a Court of Arbitration at Washington; a Secretary of Arbitration in the President's Cabinet; the armies of the United States substituted by a National Police.” Besides general propaganda work, effort has been expended in opposing universal military service and military drill in the schools. Owing to impaired health the superintendent has requested that her resignation be accepted from the post which she has held for the last twenty-nine years. This has been done, and Mrs. William Jennings Bryan has been elected in her stead. Mrs. Bailey still holds the position of Superintendent of the Department of Peace and Arbitration of the World's W. C. T. U.

McKEESPORT LEAGUE OF PEACE.

This Pennsylvania organization, though only recently formed, is already engaged in active service in combating preparedness and universal military training movements. In regard to the former, the secretary, Mr. J. E. Morrison, writes: “We wish to thank you for the encouragement and assistance rendered in our recent campaign against a military demonstration in this city. During the effort we held five mass-meetings, presented the cause of peace in twenty-four churches, distributed 50,000 pieces of literature, conducted a newspaper publicity campaign, and reached personally or by letter nearly a hundred fraternal, patriotic, and social organi-

zations, with the result that the military demonstration conducted by politicians and the Chamber of Commerce, with 25,000 pledged marchers, was finally abandoned.”

JOINING THE ISSUE

Controversy over a fact, affirmed by one side and denied by another is known in law as an “issue.” Taking up the two sides respectively is called “joining the issue.” A great need of the peace movement in the argument with its opponents is first to “join the issue.” With this aim in view this department was started. It is hoped that many of our readers will be stirred to add their wisdom to this process of “joining the issue.” Any intelligent contribution to the problem, if not too long, will be welcomed.—THE EDITOR.

SIR:

Inasmuch as you have taken note of my resignation from the executive committee of the Chicago Peace Society in your January issue, I hope that you will deem it but fair, in view of my long association and continued activity in peace work—never more active than now—to print entire my letter of resignation, copy of which is enclosed.

Respectfully yours,

JENKIN LLOYD JONES.

(Copy)

Mr. Harold G. Townsend, Secretary Chicago Peace Society, 116 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

DEAR SIR: I have your notice of an executive committee meeting for Thursday, the 16th. A previous engagement prevents my attendance, but the call to the meeting precipitates a purpose I have long entertained, namely, of asking to be relieved of my position on the executive committee, not that I have lost one whit of my interest in the cause you represent, or of my pride in the traditions of the Chicago Peace Society. These considerations induce me to retain my membership in the society, and whenever the society assumes again what seems to me the aggressive work that belongs to a peace society, I shall be glad, if it lies within my power, to help again.

But I cannot be content to seem to be responsible, as a member of the executive committee, for the present policy of inactivity of the society which, in this dire extremity, is content to “mark time,” as Professor Hall, of Swarthmore, puts it, rather than to march. Now, if ever, it seems to me, that a peace society that has sprung out of the traditions of and embodies the pacific message given to the world through Grotius, Immanuel Kant, William Ellery Channing, Charles Sumner, and Victor Hugo, and countless others, should strive to counteract the lamentable reaction into a fatal militarism that has overwhelmed Europe. If we of the United States are powerless to affect the thought and action of Europe in this matter, which I am loath to admit, there is at least a great work for us to do in the United States to recover the pacific ground heretofore held by our democracy and splendidly vindicated in our history.

The movement toward increasing the standing army beyond all precedents, the reckless and unparalleled appropriation for an increase of the navy, the far-reaching demand for compulsory military service, military training in the public high schools, and even down into the